

Draft

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING March 13, 2006

ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

PRESENT: Larry G. Yoder, Chairman
 W. Darrell Robertson, Vice-Chairman
 Wesley E. Bolick
 William L. Hammer
 W. Norris Keever

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager
 Jamie Starnes, Clerk to the Board

MEDIA: Gary Herman, The Taylorsville Times

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a regular meeting on Monday, March 13, 2006 in the Catawba Valley Community College / Alexander Center Multipurpose Room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Yoder called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mitch King, Associate Pastor of Sulphur Springs Baptist Church, gave the invocation and his son Lucas King, student at East Alexander Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

*****SPECIAL RECOGNITION*****

The Board presented a plaque to Gary Herman in appreciation of his work as Managing Editor for *The Taylorsville Times* and his fairness and honesty in regards to reporting issues related to County government.

Mr. Herman thanked the Board and stated that he had enjoyed the past 12 years with *The Taylorsville Times* and looked forward to his new position as Public Information Director for the City of Newton.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Rick French, County Manager, requested consideration of a surplus property policy be added to as Agenda Item #9B.

Commissioner Kever made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC HEARING: CLOSEOUT OF CDBG #04-C-1320 – 2004 ALEXANDER COUNTY INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (IDA) PROJECT

Nancy Coley, WPCOG Community Development Administrator, stated that this public hearing was required before submitting the Closeout Performance Report for CDBG #04-C-1320 – 2004 Individual Development Account (IDA) Project.

Ms. Coley explained that the IDA grant provided matching funds for down payment assistance and closing costs for low and moderate income families who are first-time homebuyers in the Unifour area. Each IDA participant saves \$1,000 while receiving credit counseling and attending economic literacy classes. Ms. Coley stated that the \$1,000 saved by the IDA client was matched with \$1,000 in IDA funds as well as \$5,000 (or \$7,500 for new construction) in HOME Consortium funds. She also noted that 10 families had been assisted with the 2001 IDA grant which allowed the remaining grant funds of \$21,952 to be rolled over into the 2004 IDA grant.

Ms. Coley stated that the 2004 IDA grant has assisted 7 low and moderate income households with down payments and closing costs which included 26 persons and 6 female head-of-households. She also stated that all of the families had minor children in the home and she noted that 2 of the families were Alexander Habitat for Humanity families.

Ms. Coley pointed out that \$13,000 in unspent funding would be de-obligated. She explained that to continue the IDA program, there must be another grantee from the Unifour area and she noted that Catawba County had applied for the IDA funds. Ms. Coley requested the Board allow staff to move forward with submitting the closeout materials for this project.

Chairman Yoder called the public hearing to order and requested any public comment. There being no public comment, Commissioner Bolick made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Hammer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Kever made a motion to allow Ms. Coley to move forward with submitting the Closeout Performance Report for CDBG #04-C-1320 – 2004 IDA Project to the N.C. Department of Commerce Division of Community Assistance. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR LOAN AND GRANT WATER FUNDS

Rick French, County Manager, stated that County staff had been working with EnergyUnited Water Corporation to provide water to several roads in the Vashti community. He explained that one method of proposed funding for this project was a low interest loan from the N.C. Public Water Supply which was currently at 2.3%; however, he noted that the interest rate for this loan program was set once a year in March and would probably increase slightly but would not exceed the 4% interest rate cap.

Mr. French stated that the proposed project totaled over 22 miles of water lines and would serve portions of 10 roads including Vashti, Marlowe, Jud Smith, Rocky Face Church, Allen, Rocky Springs, Sulphur Springs, York Institute, Country, and Johnny Wike. He mentioned that the estimated cost with 10% contingency was \$3,449,178 that would construct 76,570 linear feet of six inch line and 41,510 linear feet of 8 inch line.

Mr. French also stated that EnergyUnited Water Corporation had already committed to serve Jolly Cemetery Road and Black Oak Ridge at an estimated \$457,125.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Resolution Authorizing Application for Loan and Grant Water Funds. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson asked how long it would take for staff to receive a response from the N.C. Public Water Supply. Mr. French replied that staff should receive word during the summer. He also noted that staff would resubmit the application during the September grant cycle if the County did not receive approval with this application.

Commissioner Robertson also pointed out that water lines would still be constructed if the County only received a portion of the N.C. Public Water Supply monies; however, he noted that the lines would not be as extensive but could be built onto later.

BIDS ON ELECTIONS BUILDING

Rick French, County Manager, stated that the original bid submitted by Harrington Construction Company for additions and renovation of the former Employment Security Commission building for the Elections Office totaled \$152,261. However, he noted that several additions had been added to the base bid increasing the bid to \$178,688 which was still approximately \$15,000 under the next lowest bidder. Mr. French distributed a list of additions to the base bid and requested the Board approve the bid of \$178,688 submitted by Harrington Construction Company.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve the bid of \$178,688 submitted by Harrington Construction Company. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BIDS FOR SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

Rick French, County Manager, stated that County staff had mailed requests for bids on February 21, 2006 on the purchase of 5 2006 Ford Crown Victoria vehicles for the Sheriff's Department. He reported that requests for bids were mailed to 7 Ford dealerships and he noted that the County had also advertised the bidding opportunity in *The Taylorsville Times*.

Mr. French stated that the bid opening was held on March 2, 2006 at 4:15 PM. The following bids were received:

Larry Schronce Ford	\$20,575 per vehicle
Martin Family Ford	\$20,841 per vehicle
Yadkin Valley Ford	\$21,142.60 per vehicle

Mr. French informed the Board that the Finance Department recommended the Board accept the low bid from Larry Schronce Ford to purchase 5 Ford Crown Victoria vehicles at a price of \$20,575 per vehicle, excluding tax and tag. He also discussed the savings associated with purchasing these vehicles at the price of \$20,575. He pointed out that the cost for Crown Victoria vehicles from Larry Schronce Ford last year was \$22,394 per vehicle which equaled a savings of \$1,819 per car and \$9,095 for all 5 cars for the price quoted in this bid.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the bid of \$20,575 per vehicle from Larry Schronce Ford for the purchase of 5 Crown Victoria vehicles from the Sheriff's Department. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one present to speak during the Public Comment Period.

PROCLAMATION FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

Rick French, County Manager, presented a Proclamation Declaring March 2006 as American Red Cross Month. He explained that each year during the month of March, the American Red Cross was formally recognized for its essential humanitarian roles in the community. He also noted that this year marked the 125th anniversary of the first American Red Cross.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the Proclamation Declaring March 2006 as American Red Cross Month. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS & REAPPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Hammer made a motion that he along with Patti Foster, Hal Bond, and Caroline Osborne be appointed to the Unifour Regional Transit Implementation Plan Steering Committee. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS #45 - #47

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the purpose of Budget Amendments #45 - #47, which included the following:

Budget Amendment #45 – To budget for an employee benefits consultant contract through 6/30/06. To increase the budget for financial and personnel software annual support. To increase the budget for legal fees associated with the formation of a non-profit entity for Economic Development. To increase the budget for the purchase of a new lawnmower. To increase the budget for the purchase of a new desk in the jail office area. To increase the budget for performance based distribution of 2004-2005 food and lodging fees fund. To increase the budget for additional Family Planning title X funds. To increase the budget for additional bioterrorism funds for equipment purchases.

Budget Amendment #46 – To transfer funds for renovations / furnishings for the former Employment Security Commission building.

Budget Amendment #47 – To increase the budget for completion of the Jaycee Park Project.

Commissioner Keever made a motion to approve Budget Amendments #45 - #47. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

Rick French, County Manager, discussed the following issues during Other Business:

- A. The American Red Cross will be holding a community and volunteer open house on March 23, 2006 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Alexander County Branch Office.
- B. The Commissioners' Choice Awards Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2006. The banquet will begin at 6:30 PM at East Alexander Middle School.

POLICY TO DISPOSE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY

Rick French, County Manager, presented a policy prescribing procedures for disposing of personal property valued at less than \$5,000. He explained that the policy was pursuant to provisions of N.G.G.S. 160A-266(c).

Commissioner Kever made a motion to approve the Policy to Dispose of Surplus Property. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Minutes from the February 20, 2006 Regular Commissioners' Meeting.
- B. Tax Release Requests for February \$2,056.20 and Tax Refund Requests for January \$1,520.54.
- C. FY 2006-2007 Criminal Justice Partnership Program Budget.
- D. Communications Supervisor (including additions to job description).

Commissioner Bolick made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Kever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

CLOSED SESSION – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6) TO PREVENT DISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONTRACTUAL, AND PERSONNEL

Chairman Yoder made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:35 PM to prevent the disclosure of confidential information and to discuss economic development, contractual matters, and personnel issues pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1, 4, 5, & 6) and to return to open session to allow the Board to consider contracts regarding the Northeast Water Project and the Alexander County Aquatic Center. Commissioner Kever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

NORTHEAST WATER PROJECT & ALEXANDER COUNTY AQUATIC CENTER

Upon returning to open session at 7:25 PM, Commissioner Hammer made a motion to approve the agreement between Alexander County and EnergyUnited Water Corporation to allow EnergyUnited to construct a water line along Jolly Cemetery Road and Black Oak Ridge Road in exchange for Alexander County retiring the Stony Point / Millers Water Agreement to include Commissioner Robertson's recommendation to include a provision for Alexander County to make a connection to the Jolly Cemetery Road line that crossed over Black Oak Ridge Road if needed. Commissioner Bolick seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the agreement between Alexander County and Mackie Johnson, Architect, to allow Mr. Johnson to design the Alexander County Aquatic

Center contingent upon clarification of the cost of drawings, the 2 hold harmless clauses, and ADA compliance responsibility as discussed. Commissioner Keever seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Hammer made a motion to adjourn at 7:37 PM. Commissioner Robertson seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Larry G. Yoder, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board